

MSU Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Given the unprecedented circumstances we are facing related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that no large events be scheduled, we have made the difficult decision to postpone our spring commencement. We are taking this action to ensure the safety of you and your family, as well as our staff and faculty who prepare for and participate in the ceremony. We realize this decision will be very upsetting to many of you. Please know it is not one that we wanted to make. Ensuring the health and well-being of our MSU family is our highest priority at this time.

Earning a college degree is a remarkable achievement and one that deserves a celebration. **We are making plans to recognize and honor your achievement at a special ceremony that will take place on December 12, 2020.** This ceremony will only include students from the Spring and Summer 2020 class and will not be combined with our regularly scheduled fall commencement. More details will be sent to you in the coming weeks. Please note that this does not change the semester completion date for our students, nor does it affect the timeline for students earning their degrees; we are only postponing the commencement ceremony. This will also not affect when you receive your diploma. You can expect your diploma to arrive roughly six to eight weeks after your degree requirements have been met.

My hope is that you are safe, focused on your studies and are committed to finishing this semester strong. Our faculty and staff remain committed to your success and we sincerely appreciate your continued support and understanding as we work through what has become our temporary new normal. Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle.

Bob Albert, Interim Provost